Peer Review would in no way adversely affect our nuclear installations and would on the contrary help in assessing and updating safety and other features of our Nuclear Power Plants.

Commissioning of Certain Taps of Tarapur Power Station

158. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the Tarapur Power Station (Taps 3 and 4) is years behind schedule even though the financial sanction for the project was given sometime in 1991 and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board approved construction of the project in 1993;

(b) if so, what are the impediments in taking up the implementation of the project;

(c) what is the estimated cost escalation due to delay in the construction of the project;

(d) what is its overall impact in the country's nuclear power target; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government for the construction of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason for delay in commencement of main plant work of TAPP-3&4 was non-availability of funds, as budgetary support could not be provided for the project due to financial constraints.

(c) The original sanctioned base cost of the project was Rs. 2427.51 crore at June 1990 price level. The present base cost of the project at 1996 price level is Rs. 4841 crore including Rs. 1361 crore due to escalation.

(d) On completion, the two units would add to the country's nuclear power generating capacity.

(e) Implementation of the project at a total estimated cost of Rs. 6421 crore (including escalation, interest during construction, etc.) has been approved by the Government and construction of both the units would be taken up simultaneously with the objective of speedy completion.

Inspection of power stations by international experts

159.SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened for inspection their two nuclear power stations by International experts;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for a shift in Government's policy; and

(c) what are the implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) No, Sir. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) which is a member of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) has voluntarily sought a peer review of the indigenously built Kakrapar Atomic Power Station by the experts of WANO as a confidence building measure. Such peer reviews have nothing to do with safeguards inspections as undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and are conducted in nuclear power plants world-wide. Indian experts have also participated in the WANO Peer Reviews in other countries. Such peer reviews would serve to enhance India's image in the field of nuclear power and would help the process of international cooperation in nuclear safety.

(b) There is no change in Government's policy.

(c) Does not arise.

Stoppage of work at the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant

160.SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work at Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant has been stopped from 1st October, 1997 due to high radiation levels at the plant;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to resume work at Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant, reducing the radiation to such level as is not harmful; and